

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04328 071308Z

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

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TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ARAB/ISRAELI FIGHTING

1. FRONT PAGES ALL SAUDI PAPERS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO NEWS AND EDITORIALS RELATED TO FIGHTING. TYPICAL HEADLINES: ISRAEL DECLARES WAR - ARAB FORCES STORM EAST BANK OF CANAL AND GOLAN - FAYSAL WARNS: "A VOLCANO WILL ERUPT IF AMERICA DOES NOT CURB ISRAEL." - FAYSAL INFORMS KISSINGER : "U.S. MUST COMPEL ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES."

2. ALL PAPERS CARRY COMPLETE TEXT FAYSAL'S RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE. TEXT SENT VIA SEPTTEL.

3. LEAD OF MAJOR STORY ON OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING READS: "THE ISRAELI ENEMY LAUNCHED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THE GREATEST CRIMINAL AGGRESSION SINCE THE JUNE '67 AGGRESSION ALONG THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FRONTS BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPAND ITS OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS AND CRUSH THE SOLIDARITY AND STRENGTH OF THE ARABS.... BUT THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMED FORCES DROVE BACK THE AGGRESSORS. EGYPTIANS HAVE NOW LIBERATED MOST OF THE EAST BANK OF THE CANAL AND THE SYRIANS HAVE OCCUPIED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04328 071308Z

SEVERAL POSITIONS IN OCCUPIED GOLAN."

4. SUPPORTING STORY REPORTS TEXT OF FAYSAL TO SADAT TELEGRAM UNDER HEADING: "WE ARE AT YOUR SIDE WITH ALL OUR CAPABILITIES."

5. RELATED STORY SAYS SAQQAF DECLARED AT U.N. IN THE NAME OF 16 ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THE ARAB NATION HAS PLEDGED TO PLACE ALL ITS RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES AT THE DISPOSAL OF EGYPT AND SYRIA IN THEIR CONFRONTATION WITH THE "NEW ISRAELI AGGRESSION."

6. ANOTHER STORY BY AFP WITH U.N. DATELINE TOPPED BY HEADING: SECURITY COUNCIL WILL NOT BE CALLED INTO SESSION BEFORE TWO OR THREE DAYS - EGYPT WILL AVOID AMERICAN VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL AND WILL GO TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. PAPERS ALSO CARRIED STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON ON DISPOSITION OF SIXTH FLEET UNDER HEADING: THE SIXTH FLEET MAY HEAD TOWARD MIDDLE EAST. "RESPONSIBLE" DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT IMPROBABLE THAT THE FLEET MIGHT MOVE TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST AREA IF THE SITUATION DEVELOPS AND IF THE FIGHTING CONTINUES.

8. EDITORIAL REACTION WAS INSTANT AND EMOTIONAL. MECCA DAILY AL NADWA IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED, A REPLY STRONGER THAN BULLETS, SAID: :HIS MAJESTY HAS REFUTED THE CONTENTS OF MR. KISSINGER'S MESSAGE AND OUTLINED TO KISSINGER THAT THE ARABS DID NOT AGGRESS, BUT THAT ISRAEL HERSELF HAS ALWAYS STARTED AGGRESSION. THE KING'S REPLY HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AS CLOSE ADVICE, (SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED), APPRECIATED BY HE WHO IS ABLE TO PUT AN END TO THE ISRAELI EXPANSIONIST AGGRESSIONS. THE ARABS HAVE LONG ENDURED THE CONTINUOUS AGGRESSION, THEIR LANDS' OCCUPATION AND THE USURPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS. UNDOUBTEDLY, IT WILL BE A TOTAL WAR WHICH WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THE ARAB RIGHTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RESTORED, OR UNTIL THOSE WHO PROVIDED ISRAEL WITH THE INSTRUMENTS OF AGGRESSION, REALIZE THE DANGER AND PUT AN END TO THE ZIONIST BOASTING

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 04328 071308Z

AND SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE CATASTROPHE OF A COMPREHENSIVE WORLD WAR."

UNDER "PERPETUATION OF AGGRESSION," AL MADINA NEWSPAPER SAID: "THE UNJUST ISRAELI AGGRESSION WAS NOT STRANGE, SINCE THE ISRAELI MILITARY CONCENTRATION ALONG THE CEASEFIRELINES HAVE FORESHADOWED THIS AGGRESSION. IT IS NOT THE FIRST AGGRESSION BY ISRAEL AGAINST THE ARAB COUNTRIES. HER AGGRESSION HAS BEEN GOING ON

AGAINST THE ARAB STATES FOR 26 YEARS."

AL BILAD, ANOTHER DAILY ISSUED IN JIDDA, COMMENTED:

"THE NEW AGGRESSION IS NOT A SINGLE INCIDENT, BUT A
DELIBERATE EXTENSIVE ASSAULT. HOW LONG WILL ISRAEL
CONTINUE TAMPERING WITH THE AREA'S PEACE, AND
CONSEQUENTLY WORLD PEACE WITHOUT BEING DETERRED AND
CURBED BY THE U.S. AND OTHER STATES RESPONSIBLE FOR
MAINTAINING PEACE.... ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
ARAB LANDS AND GIVING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THEIR
RIGHTS IS AN UNESCAPABLE DUTY OF THE WORLD AND THE
UNITED STATES."

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